

The message of Muhammad (peace be upon him) is for both jinn and humans

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent to both jinn and humans. Ibn Taimiya stated, “There is agreement on this principle among the Companions and those that followed their way and the leaders of the Muslims and the rest of the different groups of Muslims, the *ahl al-sunnah wa al-jamaa* and others. May Allah be pleased with all of them.”

What suggests this is the challenge of the Quran to both the jinn and humans to compose a work similar to the Quran. Allah says in the Quran,

قُلْ لِّبِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَٰذَا الْقُرْءَانِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا

“Say: Verily, though mankind and jinn should assemble to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof though they would be helpers, one of another” (*al-Israa* 88).

Some of the jinn quickly became believers when they heard the Quran recited. The Quran states,

قُلْ أَوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ إِلَهِي أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا قُرْءَانًا عَجَبًا ﴿١﴾ يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ فَآمَنَّا بِهِ وَلَنْ نُشْرِكَ بِرَبِّنَا أَحَدًا

¹Ibn Taimiya, *Majmoo al-Fatawa*, vol. 19, p.9.

“Say: It is revealed unto me that a company of the jinn listened, and they said, ‘Lo, it is a marvelous Quran, which guides unto righteousness, so we believe in it and we ascribe no partner unto our Lord’” (*al-Jinn* 1-2).

Those who listened to the Quran and believed in it are the same ones who are mentioned in the following verse from *surah al-Ahqaaf*,

وَإِذْ صَرَفْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفَرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقُرْآنَ فَلَمَّا حَضَرُوهُ قَالُوا أَنصِتُوا فَلَمَّا قُضِيَ وَلَّوْا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِمْ مُنْذِرِينَ ﴿٢٩﴾ قَالُوا يَا قَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِن بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ وَإِلَىٰ طَرِيقٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿٣٠﴾ يَا قَوْمَنَا أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَآمِنُوا بِهِ يَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ مِّن ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُجِرْكُمْ مِّن عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ ﴿٣١﴾

وَمَن لَّا يُجِيبْ دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

“And when We inclined toward you (Muhammad) certain of the jinn, who wished to hear the Quran and, when they were in its presence, said, ‘Give ear.’ And when it was finished, turned back to their people, warning [them]. They said, ‘O our people, lo, we have heard a scripture which has been revealed after Moses, confirming that which was before it, guiding unto the truth and a right road. O our people, respond to Allah’s summoner and believe in Him. He will forgive you some of your sins and guard you from a painful doom. And whosoever does not respond to Allah’s summoner, he can nowise escape in the earth, and you can find no protecting friends instead of Him. Such are in error manifest” (*al-Ahqaaf* 29-32). They heard the Quran, **they believed in it**

and returned to their people to call them towards the oneness of Allah and faith and they gave them good tidings as well as a warning.

The story of their listening to the Prophet (peace be upon him) has been recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim on the authority of ibn Abbas. Ibn Abbas reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) departed with some of his companions, intending to go to the bazaar at Ukaz. At that time, there had been obstruction between the devils and the news from the heavens. And flames were being hurled at the jinn. Therefore, the jinn went back to their people and were asked about what had happened. They answered, “Some barriers have been put between us and the news from the heavens.” They said, “This could only happen due to some important event. So go to the eastern parts of the earth and its western parts to find out what has happened to cause these barriers between us and the news from the heavens.” They did so. A group of them proceeded to Tihama which is a palm grove close to the fair of Ukaz. At that time, the Prophet (peace be upon him) was leading his Companions in the dawn prayer. When the jinn heard the recitation of the Quran, they said, “Listen to it.” Then they said, “This is what has caused the barriers between us and the news of the heavens.” They returned to their people and said, “O our people, we have heard a marvelous Quran that guides us to the straight path and we believe in it.” Then Allah revealed to His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him),

قُلْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ

“Say; It is revealed to me that a company of the jinn listened...” (*al-Jinn* 1). Allah revealed to the Prophet (peace be on him) what the jinn had stated

The delegation from the jinn

The incident mentioned above was the first time that the jinn became aware of the message of the Prophet (peace be upon him). They listened to the Quran without the Prophet (peace be upon him) being